

History 454
Japan in the Age of the Samurai

Professor Kären Wigen
 Spring 1995

office hours: Monday 1:30 - 3:00 and Wednesday 3:30 - 4:30, or by appointment

5110 Humanities

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This course surveys the cultural, economic, and political landscape of Japan from the twelfth to the nineteenth century. While this era was the heyday of the Japanese warrior, it was also characterized by striking commercial developments and a vibrant commoner culture. The relationships between these seemingly disparate phenomena, and the historiographical debates they have engendered, will form the core of our concerns during the semester. Questions that might be addressed include the following: How have the Japanese people reconciled Confucian sobriety with a lusty spirit of play? Why have those with real power seldom sat on the throne? How is the vaunted Japanese love of nature connected to a history of intensive resource exploitation? How has social conflict been expressed in the land of consensus? Has Japan been more marked by its isolation from or its integration into wider currents of world history? And finally, has Japanese culture been responsible for the country's political-economic trajectory, or have politics and economics determined its culture? To address these issues, a variety of materials will be introduced during the semester, including primary documents, scholarly articles, folk tales, poems, maps, films, autobiography, artwork, and fiction. As we will see, scholars are far from united in their picture of the period, disagreeing even over how the questions should be posed. The challenge for students of Japanese history is to come up with a judicious and convincing synthesis of their own.

While there are no prerequisites, this is an advanced course; critical analysis of historical evidence and historians' arguments, both in discussions and in the assigned papers, will be expected of all students. Timely reading, regular attendance, and active participation in sections are essential. To facilitate discussion, everyone is asked to bring the assigned materials for the week to their section. In addition, students will be asked to turn in short (1-2 pp) written responses to the readings every third week. These brief, journal-style reaction-papers should reflect on the materials just assigned in light of pertinent earlier readings. While these will not be letter-graded, they will be weighed in evaluating class participation.

Grades will be determined on the basis of a quiz (10%), a 6-8 page essay based on common readings (20%), a book review and related historiographical essay on the monograph of your choice (together worth 30%), a final exam (30%), and class participation (10%).

Assigned readings marked R are on reserve (in xerox form) at the Helen C. White College Library. Those marked T are drawn from one of the four textbooks listed below, which should be purchased from the University Bookstore.

Conrad Totman, *Japan Before Perry*
 Donald Keene, ed., *Anthology of Japanese Literature*
 Nakane and Oishi, *Tokugawa Japan*
 Katsu Kokichi, *Musui's Story*

Also available for purchase, and highly recommended, is Strunk and White's *Elements of Style*. Papers will be graded on the assumption that students have studied the rules of composition explained in this small writing handbook.

Outline and Schedule of Assignments

I. A Place, A Time

Fri 1/27	<i>Mountains and Water</i> T Totman, preface plus 1-17 R Sansom	25
Mon 1/30	<i>Classical Legacies (I): The Political Order</i> T Totman, 18-31	15
Wed 2/1	<i>Classical Legacies (II): Courty Culture</i> T Totman, 42-54 T Keene, 106-144	40
Fri 2/3	<i>Classical Legacies (III): Kyoto and the Countryside</i> T Totman, 54-63	10

II. The Center Does Not Hold

Mon 2/6	<i>Rise of the manorial economy</i> T Totman, 63-69 R Sato, 91-109	25
Wed 2/8	<i>Establishment of Kamakura rule</i> T Totman, 70-80 R Lu, 99-111	25
Fri 2/10	<i>Warrior ethos?</i> T Totman, 85-93 T Keene, <i>Anthology</i> , 179-191, 197-212	35
Mon 2/13	<i>Power in the countryside</i> Totman, 80-84 Quiz	5
Wed 2/15	<i>Contending religions</i> Totman, 93-106 R Tsunoda, 190-266 (selected pages)	30
Fri 2/17	<i>Zen and the arts</i> R Warner, 91-107	20
Mon 2/20	<i>Women in medieval society</i> R Tonomura, 1-19	20
Wed 2/22	<i>Tales of the times</i> T Keene, <i>Anthology</i> , 213-218 R Ury, 93-101, 172-177, 195-199	25
Fri 2/24	<u>Film: <i>Rashomon</i> (83 min)</u>	

III. Japan's Renaissance: The Sixteenth Century

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Mon 2/27	<i>The Sixteenth Century Revolution</i>	20
	R Elison, 1-6	
	R Hall, 7-21	
Wed 3/1	<i>Oda Nobunaga</i>	40
	R Tsunoda et al., 311-321	
	R Elison, 55-86	
Fri 3/3	<i>Toyotomi Hideyoshi</i>	30
	R Tsunoda et al., 321-331	
	R Elison, 223-244	
Mon 3/6	<i>Kyoto Revived</i>	30
	T Totman, 117-129	
	R Hayashiya	
Wed 3/8	<i>Muromachi culture: Tea and Sake</i>	40
	T Totman, 106-117	
	R Ruch, 279-310	
Fri 3/10	<i>Noh Theater</i>	(*no reading; a film may be shown)
	First Essay Due	

Spring Break

IV. Pax Tokugawa

Mon 3/20	<i>Tokugawa Ieyasu</i>	25
	T Totman, 129-144	
	R Tsunoda et al., 331-343	
Wed 3/22	<i>Consolidating the domestic order: the Baku-han state</i>	40
	T Totman, 145-149	
	T Nakane & Oishi, eds., chapter 1	
Fri 3/24	<i>Holding the world at bay</i>	30
	R Toby plus Lu, 216-223	
Mon 3/27	<i>Neo-Confucianism as an ideology of rule</i>	35
	T Totman, 150-158	
	R Tsunoda et al., 345-369	
Wed 3/29	<i>The social order</i>	40
	T Nakane & Oishi, eds., chapter 9	
	R Lu, 204-210	
Fri 3/31	<i>Outcastes and Ainu: people at the margin</i>	25
	R Howell, 69-93	
Mon 4/3	<i>The village</i>	40
	T Nakane & Oishi, eds., chapter 2	
Wed 4/5	<i>Rural industry & commercial development</i>	40
	T Nakane & Oishi, eds., chapters 3-4	
Fri 4/7	Book review due	

<i>Mon 4/10</i>	<i>Urban spaces, business customs</i>	55
	T Totman, 158-164, 188-199	
	T Nakane & Oishi, eds., chapters 5-6	
<i>Wed 4/12</i>	<i>Commoner culture</i>	30
	T Keene, 335-362	
<i>Fri 4/14</i>	<i>The floating world</i>	25
	T Nakane & Oishi, eds., chapter 7	
<i>Mon 4/17</i>	<i>Warrior ethos revisited</i>	
	T <i>Musui's Story</i> (all)	*180
<i>Wed 4/19</i>	<i>Samurai and merchant</i>	25
	T Totman, 164-176	
	R Shively	
<i>Fri 4/21</i>	<i>Kabuki and puppet theater</i>	(*no reading; a film will be shown)
V. Crisis and "Restoration"		
<i>Mon 4/24</i>	<i>Regulation and reform: the long view</i>	60
	R Metzler, 57-119	
<i>Wed 4/26</i>	<i>Food crises and population dynamics</i>	15
	T Totman, 213-230	
<i>Fri 4/28</i>	<i>Peasant rebellion & samurai response</i>	25
	T Totman, 199-201	
	R White	
<i>Mon 5/1</i>	<i>The foreign crisis</i>	40
	R Hall, 243-252	
	T Totman, 201-213	
	R Lu, <i>Sources of Japanese History</i> , vol 1, 252-259; vol. 2, 9-22	
<i>Wed 5/3</i>	<i>International trade and the late Tokugawa economy</i>	(no reading)
<i>Fri 5/5</i>	<i>New powers at the periphery</i>	(no reading)
	Historiographical essay due	
<i>Mon 5/8</i>	<i>Articulating an ideology of rebellion</i>	10
	T Totman, 176-188	
<i>Wed 5/10</i>	<i>The fall of the Bakufu</i>	30
	R Lehmann, 140-159	
	R Smith, 133-146	
<i>Fri 5/12</i>	<i>Politics and culture in Japanese history: judging the legacy</i>	25
	T Totman, 230-232	
	R Reischauer, 21-39	
	R van Wolferen, 3 pp of typed excerpts	